fraction under five members. Also as in the West it has not been uncommon for such a group to live by itself as a distinct household although perhaps with one or more servants and relatives as additional members. Much more generally than in the Occident, however, what may be called a family has been much larger. It has not been uncommon for several of the smaller families to dwell together under one roof or in one enclosure and have a common life. Here four generations may sometimes be found—great-grand-parents with their sons, daughters-in-law, grandsons, grand-daughters-in-law, and great-grandchildren. In this case each of the smaller units may preserve a certain amount of individual identity, with its own bedrooms and kitchen, but inevitably there has been a degree of community life, with a head of the whole, possibly a common ancestral hall, and—although this is not uniform—a common purse. The head of such a family may have autocratic power. The leadership normally passes to the eldest son, but by common consent it may be entrusted to the son adjudged most worthy. Elders, including a widowed mother or grandmother, may exert marked influence. Such large family groups have been found especially in rural areas but have by no means been unknown in towns and cities. Frequently, moreover, whole villages are made up of those claiming descent from one male ancestor and its members bear the same surname.

In a community composed of blood relations the village government may be purely a family matter, the family elder being the chairman of the village assembly, and other offices going to various branches of the family in turn. In these circumstances the public endowments used for such objects as

the maintenance of roads and schools are to all intents and purposes family possessions.

Moreover, still larger groups exist, made up of those tracing their descent from one progenitor, having a common patronymic, perhaps united through an ancestral temple, but not necessarily living in one community or even in the same province.

The two latter types, and especially the last, are sometimes denominated clans, but from the standpoint of scientific exactitude the definitions of this term differ so greatly that the word must be used with caution. Each "clan" is, in turn, made up of smallei family groups.